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To The Committee of the Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

As I am a regular citizen rather than a legal or governmental professional I will be making a submission that is more informal.

I would like to start my submission by simply directing you to the page on the Parliament of Australia website listing all the Royal Commissions made since 1902- https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/Browse_by_Topic/law/royalcommissions

Time and time again whistle blowers have been vital to our country and her people. As a member of the United Nations Australia has the duty to protect the human rights of all. Changes to any laws regarding the reporting of illegal behaviour will affect not just animal agriculture but every single employment and production sector.

I admire and respect those who are able to muster the courage to come forward and speak out against not just their employer but possibly an entire industry. With legal ramifications a very real threat many people would not be able to do this.

Two recent examples come to mind: Without whistle blowers hundreds of thousand of vulnerable Australians would still be suffering in health, aged, and disability care; and national banking, superannuation companies, and financial services would be continuing to exploit their power to the great detriment of hard working Australians.

If Animal Rights Activists, who risk their employment, their freedom, and indeed their lives to expose the barbaric practices within the animal agriculture industry are un-Australian, then so too are the Australians involved in the commissions on that APH list. The crimes exposed by Animal Rights Activists are not just horrific acts, they are an insult to our country. The blatant disregard of Australian laws (and values) by the animal agriculture industry is un-Australian. And the blind eyes that regulatory bodies and state and federal governments have been turning for decades are un-Australian.

Regardless of your position on animal rights, the animal agriculture industry, or Animal Rights Activists themselves, please consider that any legislation regarding reporting of misconduct or law breaking will affect *all* industries and therefore *all* Australians. Please remember that by bringing into affect laws that inhibit whistle blowing you are allowing the suffering of billions of sentient beings to continue. Please consider that any legislation regarding whistle blowing, no matter of how specific it may be, will discourage any person to come forward. And by doing so you are not just allowing the continued suffering of non-human animals, you are ensuring that millions of *humans* will continue to suffer.

I thank the Committee for accepting my personal submission.

Angela Lowery
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